

# Port Arthur survivor calls for Coronial Inquiry

By Ray Smyth

In an emotional speech at the Inverell Forum, before an audience of over 200 people, Wendy Scurr told of her harrowing experiences at Port Arthur on that fateful Sunday, 28 April, 1996. She told of people dying in her arms, of her shock and horror as she tended the wounded and dying in the Broad Arrow Café.

Wendy, who was the first to call the police and report what was happening, paused many times to keep her emotions under control.

"Since that unforgettable Sunday I have been unable to sleep" Mrs Scurr said, "My nerves are bad and my health has suffered." She also said she had lost her job, had never received any compensation, and found that officialdom had hindered any meeting of the survivors. In fact, she believed it was official policy to stop the survivors communicating with one another.

Wendy Scurr also thinks and reacts like lightning. Within minutes of hearing the shooting start in the Broad Arrow Café, she rushed into the nearby information office and placed a call to police headquarters in Hobart. Not amused by initial police reluctance to believe she was telling the truth, Wendy simply shoved the handset outside the doorway and told them to listen to the shots over the phone. Police logged her call at 1.32 pm, a point of considerable importance later.

A police presence did not arrive till five hours after the event. Until then staff members and SES had to deal with the after effects of the horrendous event, while in constant fear that the gunman would return, never sure that they were not in the cross hairs of his rifle sight.

Knowing that Wendy made that first critical telephone call and then entered the Broad Arrow Café to help the injured should have drawn the police to her like a magnet, but curiously did not do so. She offered the police additional information about the sequence of events but says her interview was abruptly terminated. On 15th October 1996, Wendy received a letter from the Director of Public



Wendy Scurr was a nurse working at the Port Arthur Historical site at the time of the shooting. Wendy was the first into the Broad Arrow Café immediately after the shooting. Because of her quick action all those injured survived. Wendy was regarded as a heroine at the time, due to her giving aid to the injured at a time when the gunman was still on the loose and might have returned to the café.

Wendy is dissatisfied with the Government investigations of the incident and is calling for a CORONIAL INQUIRY. Normally a coronial inquiry is held for any death, however this was not done at Port Arthur on the grounds that "it would be too distressing for the victims and relatives." Strange - the Government has never been that sensitive for any other tragedy.

not be required to give evidence at the trial of Martin Bryant, though it is hard to imagine anyone better placed to provide an accurate account of events that day.

served five years with 5 R.V.R., the old Victoria Scottish Regiment in the Mortar Platoon, Support Coy. He was also a member of the Victoria Police for 17

Andrew is an ex-policeman from Victoria (Australia). He has compiled all the known information provided by Wendy and others. It is available on a CD called "DECEIT AND TERRORISM".

The CD has the court transcript of the Martin Bryant trial, Police negotiation tapes, Police interview transcripts, the Bugg report, the Mullen Report and some of the video films used in evidence.

He indicates that the massacre may have been perpetrated by Australian Government security organisations.

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Mrs Scurr made an impassioned plea for a coronial inquiry, citing anomalies in the evidence that linked Martin Bryant to the massacre and in the way the media

years from 1968 to 1985, and was awarded the National Service Medal in 1985.

Mr MacGregor has done extensive research into the Port Arthur massacre and believes that justice was not done in the case of Martin Bryant. He has also written a book on the subject entitled "Deceit and Terrorism - The Massacre at Port Arthur," which is now available on CD. He also lambasted the media coverage of the tragedy and the linking of Martin Bryant's name with the massacre prior to his conviction.

He pointed out the many strange "coincidences" that



A young victim of the gunman is airlifted out.

had handled the event.

Mrs Scurr shared the stage with

the slaughter. He also spoke about the many irregularities which attended the arrest and conviction of Martin Bryant, including the less than professional legal defence that was engaged in by the various lawyers who "defended" Martin Bryant. Mr MacGregor said he expected that the media would either vilify himself and Mrs Scurr or ignore them. That was prophetic, for although all media had been informed about Mrs Scurr's first public address at the Inverell Forum, none showed up to report it.

The audience at the Inverell Forum was absolutely silent during the presentations of both Wendy Scurr and Andrew MacGregor. They were obviously physically moved by what they had heard, some wept, some held their heads in their hands, some were astonished that such things could happen in Australia.

Could our authorities really be so corrupt that they would use mass slaughter to advance their agenda? In the light of Ruby Ridge, Waco and the Oklahoma bombing, many remembered the quotation of Barry Unsworth on the eve of his dismissal from government, due to his stand on guns laws: "there will never be uniform gun laws in Australia until we see a massacre in Tasmania" Barry Unsworth, New South Wales Premier, December 1987.

Nothing less than a Coronial Enquiry will suffice to assure the Australian public that justice has been done in this matter. We call



Scenes of horror at the Broad Arrow Café.

on the Governor-General and the Attorney-General to act immediately to end conjecture, rumour